

# LO!

*BEHOLD: THE MYSTERIOUS, THE WONDERMENT OF THE WORLD.*

ISSUE # 2

MAY 1995

**VAMPIRE ANTS:** Ants are attacking the 10,000 residents of Envira, a small town in the Amazon jungle in Brazil. The residents are fighting back with poison and boiling water, but the ants keep on coming. A doctor said the fire ants are of the genus *Solenopsis*. The ants only appeared after the area was cleared of jungle growth, and this eliminated birds and spiders which were their natural enemies. The ants sucked blood from animals and adults and children. Source: CFTO-TV. Toronto, newscast.

**ICE FALL IN CHINO, CALIFORNIA:** A chunk of ice thought to be toilet refuse from an airplane crashed through the roof of a high school French class. No one was injured.

The ice narrowly missed students and "had the teacher been sitting at the desk, it would have landed on him," Chino High School Principal Robert Nero said March 21st.

Teacher Ray Villeneuve was standing during the lecture Monday afternoon. The ice left a hole about 3 feet in diameter through the roof. Carol Long, spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Los Angeles, said the agency would check flight records to see where the ice may have come from. Source: Cleveland Plain Dealer, March 22, 1995

**WOOLLY MAMMOTHS:** A population of woolly mammoths survived some six thousand years after the beasts were thought to be extinct, roaming an island northwest of Alaska even as the Sphinx was being built in Egypt, a new study says. Twenty-nine teeth and tooth fragments from mammoths on Russia's Wrangel Island in the Arctic Ocean were found to be as young as about four-thousand years, Russian researchers said in the journal *Nature*. Source: Delve magazine, No. 10 March 1995.

**CHEMIST CLAIMS METEORITE FROM MARS:** Kurt Marti, a planetary chemist at the University of California at San Diego, said on March 30th that a 40-pound meteorite that landed in Africa 32 years ago has been identified as a bit of Mars.

The meteorite was observed as it crashed to Earth in Nigeria in 1962 and was quickly recovered. It is named Zagami for the region where it hit.

A study of the chemistry of Zagami is to be published today in the journal *Science*.

Marti, the study's lead author, said that gas trapped in bubbles within glass inside the meteorite has been chemically matched with the atmospheric composition found on Mars by the Viking spacecraft.

Based on an analysis of cosmic ray absorption, Marti said Zagami was wandering in space for about three million years before it landed on Earth. Source: Cleveland Plain Dealer March 31, 1995.

*THE INTELLECTUAL NEWSLETTER THAT CHALLENGES THE MIND.*



**THE BEAST OF BODMIN MOOR:** Children who live in a moor scoured by wind and water in England's southwest don't believe in Scotland's Loch Ness monster. But they're sure the Beast of Bodmin Moor is for real.

"Something lives on the moor. People have seen it with their own eyes," said Darren Squire, 10.

One of those who swears he's seen the creature is Darren's classmate, Ross Kemp, also 10. The beast, he said, is big and black and a little scary. In a hunt that recalls the Sherlock Holmes adventure, "The Hound of the Baskervilles," the government agreed last week to spend \$13,000 to investigate "the possible existence of one or more wild catlike animals on Bodmin Moor." Government zoologists will be sent out to check on local claims that the wild cats have been mauling livestock and frightening children. Shrouded in mist and mystery, Bodmin Moor is a great, lonely swath of land pocked by gorse and bogs, about 250 miles southwest of London.

Legend holds that King Arthur threw his sword Excalibur into Doxmary Pool on the moor. In the 17th and 18 centuries, smugglers hid from tax collectors in the 10-square mile wasteland.

For more than four years, Rosemary Rhodes, 56, has tried to persuade others that wild cats live on Bodmin Moor and are responsible for savagely killing farm animals. In April, Rhodes sold the last 50 sheep at her Ninestones Farm after four ewes were ripped to death.

"I've been called a hysterical, menopausal, attention-seeking female," she said. "But more and more people are believing me."

Gesturing across a broad expanse of drab land, Rhodes said she is unconcerned that more people haven't seen the beast.

"As you can see, you can hide a regiment of cavalry and Hannibal's elephant out there." In what she admits has become an obsession, she and friend Don Rogers often go out after midnight with a powerful light plugged into the battery of her Land Rover.

She has captured fuzzy images of large black cats with long tails and the face of what she believes is a wild cub.

Rhodes is convinced the Beast of Bodmin Moor is in fact an assortment of pumas, also known as cougars, and black panthers.

"They are not illusions or delusions or pink panthers," Rhodes said. "They are so graceful, so beautiful. It is such a buzz to see one."

Douglas Richardson, curator of mammals at London Zoo, said he has seen Rhodes' videotape and confirms that the animal is a black panther.

Wild cats are extremely rare in Britain, though pumas have been found everywhere from British Columbia - with a similar climate - to South America and are adaptable to various climates.

The National Farmers Union says more than a dozen farmers on Bodmin Moor have reported attacks on sheep and calves in the past two years.

In the cozy pub at Jamaica Inn - made famous by Daphne du Maurier's novel of the same name, about romance, smuggling and murder - patrons tell tales of the Beast of Bodmin Moor.

Steve Parkyn said he saw the beast 18 months ago lying on a farm lane.

"The thing that actually spooked me the most was its speed. If it had come towards us...it could have had us," he said. "It's not a myth. I can guarantee that was a puma."

Charlie Bettinson of St. Neot said he was walking home after fishing near Golitha Falls "when I saw it on a rock - it was like a Doberman only bigger. The hair stood up on the back of my neck. Put me off night fishing for the rest of the season."

Tony Turner, the manager of the Jamaica Inn, said bookings rise with the publicity about the Beast of Bodmin Moor.

"I'd hate to see them kill it," he said. "A little mystery is good for business." Source: Karin Davies, Associated Press Dispatch, Jan. 20, 1995.

**MAYAYSIA'S BIGFOOT:** As the hunt for a massive hairy creature called "Bigfoot" entered its sixth day yesterday, Malaysian trekkers stumbled upon fresh footprints indicating they were close to its hideout, investigators said. Army and police units, wildlife experts and jungle tribes joined the search dubbed "Operasi Kaki Resar" in Malay, or "Operation Bigfoot." They combed several thousand square miles of dense jungle surrounding Tanjung Piai in Johore, the southernmost state of the Malaysian peninsula, where reports of sightings were first received. It was described as being about 8 feet tall.

Tension mounted when superstitious villagers and jungle tribes feared that the fresh "footprints" could belong to another "Bigfoot," despite government efforts to assure them that there was only one "Bigfoot," not two. Tribesmen burned twigs and dried leaves, banged tin cans and gongs, performed ritual dances and kept a 24-hour vigil with spears in attempts to drive away the creature, which they said had been sent to Malaysia by evil forces. The creature's fresh footprints, found in dense undergrowth, measure about 1½ feet long and display only four toes, investigators said. Source: Cleveland Plain Dealer, January 13, 1995.

**UNDERWATER NOISE MYSTIFIES CALIFORNIANS:** A mysterious underwater noise pulsed through the waters off Monterey again Thursday, and experts said the sound appeared to be manmade.

But scientists from the Naval Postgraduate School said they failed to capture the sound on special hydrophones, so its source remained a mystery.

Jay Murray, a professional diver who recorded the sound with a video camera earlier in the week, said he watched as a team of divers heard the low-pitched, heartbeatlike vibration Thursday.

"It feels like three, four, five pulses in the water - it's obviously manmade in my estimation," he said.

Jim Miller, a scientist at the Naval school, had analyzed Murray's tapes. He agrees the sound, which has steady beats a quarter of a second apart, is likely of human origin, said John Sanders, spokesman for the school.

Source: Santa Barbara News - Press, September 2, 1994, via COUD-I.

**THE "MAORI TRIANGLE":** An eerie new Bermuda Triangle where people, animals and hillsides vanish without a trace has been found in the New Zealand bush! "People go in and never come back," says area resident John Paheke. "Trees and hillsides are gone in the morning. If cattle stray onto this earth, their tracks end, and they are gone." But the key to unlocking its mysteries may be lost forever. One man, Pakira Tutaki, knew the secrets of the Maori Triangle and tried to tell scientists - but no one would listen. He died in 1976. Recently, three ancient posts that mark the 4,000-acre Triangle were found, and scientists became interested. On his deathbed, Tutaki gave a map to nephew John Paki revealing the area's secrets. But so far, no one has been able to decipher it. "He wanted to leave his knowledge," says Paki. "Trouble was, everyone thought he was just a crazy old man." Source: Delve Report, November 1994.

**"PIRANHA PANIC" GRIPS ISRAEL:** In the Sea of Galilee, where it is said that Jesus Christ walked on water and where tourists flock nowadays to water-ski, Yaakov Ezri dipped a trawling net Monday and pulled out three interlopers. Savage-looking and 6 inches long, the fish had sharp teeth and, the fisherman imagined, the eyes of carnivores. Work spread quickly; By accident or some sinister plot, man-eating piranhas had come to Israel. Israel Radio, which treated the find as serious news, quoted marine biologists as warning there could be hundreds of the tropical killers in the Galilee -



actually a lake and the nation's principal fresh-water supply. The only note of hope to be found was that piranhas, as natives of Brazil's warm waters, might not survive the winter.

Israel's tabloids, which love anything to do with carnage, splashed what they dubbed "pira-noia." Maariv ran a two-page spread headlined "Piranha Panic." It featured full-color promotional posters from the horror flicks Piranha and Piranha 2.

Questions abounded. Were these fishy fugitives from an aquarium? Pawns of a foreign power? Would Israel demand a crackdown by Yasser Arafat? Hopes that winter might kill the invaders, biologists said, might be foiled by the Galilee's numerous hot springs.

The Galilee's fishermen did their best to hype the fish, apparently dreaming of rich new markets. Crowds of shoppers in the Tiberius market bid hundreds of shekels (more than \$100) for one of Ezri's catch.

But all sensations must come to an end, and this one finally died at the hand of Daniel Golani, fish detective. Someone from the Agriculture Ministry tracked down the ichthyologist on a field trip in Eilat and pleaded with him to rush back to Jerusalem Tuesday night.

Wednesday morning, an icy sample landed on Golani's desk.

The teeth were all wrong. Piranha teeth look like "little blades," the better to tear meat. The teeth on the sample were sharp and strong, but they were made to cut through plants and nuts.

It was no piranha, Golani said. It was a common picu, a distant cousin also from Brazil. A vegetarian. Source: Barton Gellman, Washington Post Dispatch, December 18, 1994 via COUD-I.

**DOG AND WHALE IN LOVE:** There's an interspecies friendship between a wild beluga whale named Wilma and a pet Siberian husky named Rocky, in Chedabucto Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada. Jim Johnson, owner of a bed and breakfast operation, is responsible. Johnson, an underwater photographer, made friends with Wilma. When Rocky met Wilma for the first time, Rocky became excited and jumped into the water and the two began communicating audibly and nuzzling. In video footage, the two appear to be exchanging greetings and smooching. The whale makes high-pitched noises and the dog makes his own, completely absorbed with each other. Source: Toronto Sun, January 16, 1995.

**BRITISH JET HAS "?" ENCOUNTER:** A British Airways jet had a close encounter with a fast-moving UFO, it has been claimed.

The British Civil Aviation Authority on January 18th launched an inquiry into the incident after the pilots reported a brightly-lit triangular object hurtled towards them before veering off.

Air traffic control informed them there were no other planes in the area. Initially the pilots did not lodge a report for fear of being ridiculed. The Boeing 737 - heading for Manchester from Milan on January 6 with 60 people on board - was flying over the Pennine Mountains when it was "buzzed" by the objects.

CAA spokesman Chris Mason said suggestions the object was a UFO were "purely speculative".

Near-miss incidents often "turn out to be air balloons or small private aircraft," he said. Source: Melbourne, Australia Herald Sun, January 19, 1995.

\* \* \* \* \*

**LO!** is published quarterly by the United Aerial Phenomena Agency, P.O. Box 347032, Cleveland Ohio 44134. Editors are Allan J. Manak and Rick R. Hilberg. Managing Editor is Carol J. Hilberg. Subscriptions are four issues for \$7.00, or eight issues for \$13.00. Subscriptions outside the U.S.A. add \$3.00 per year.